

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A device comprising:

a physical communication component; and

a processor coupled with the physical communication component, in which the processor is adapted to

receive contending requests for respective non-contending wireless data transmissions through a medium;

schedule an ending time of a time window for the non-contending wireless data transmissions during which ~~subsequent~~ all contending requests are impermissible;

communicate the scheduled ending time;

monitor the medium;

determine that one of the wireless non-contending wireless data transmissions through the monitored medium ended before the scheduled ending time;

communicate that subsequent transmitting of contending requests for subsequent non-contending wireless data transmissions are permissible ~~even if made~~ before the scheduled ending time; and

receiving transmitted contending requests for requesting reservation of subsequent non-contending wireless data transmissions before the ~~current~~ scheduled ~~non-contending~~ ending time; and

scheduling a new time window for other non-contending wireless data transmissions during which contending requests are impermissible according to the contending requests received before the scheduled ending time.

2. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, in which the processor is further adapted to:

detect an idle time in the medium; and

compare the idle time to a preset minimum time;

and in which the non-contending wireless data transmission is determined to have ended if the idle time is longer than the preset minimum time.

3. (Currently amended) The device of claim 2, ~~in which the processor is further adapted to:~~  
~~start an idle counter if the medium is detected to be idle 1 including:~~  
adjusting a contention mechanism to prevent contending for the medium before the  
scheduled ending time; and  
pursuant to the notification readjust the contention mechanism to enable transmitting the  
requests for contending for the medium before the scheduled ending time.

4. (Previously presented) The device of claim 2, in which  
the preset minimum time equals a DIFS (distributed coordination function inter-frame  
space).

5. (Currently amended) A device comprising:  
a physical communication component; and  
a processor coupled with the physical communication component, in which the processor  
is adapted to  
receive data about a contention-free time window regarding a medium;  
decode from the data a scheduled ending time of the time window;  
then receive notification that contention will be permitted before the scheduled ending  
time; ~~and~~  
transmit requests to contend for the medium for reserving a next contention-free time  
window before the scheduled ending time pursuant to the notification;  
adjust a contention mechanism to prevent contending for the medium before the  
scheduled ending time; and  
pursuant to the notification readjust the contention mechanism to enable transmitting the  
requests for contending for the medium before the scheduled ending time.

6. (Original) The device of claim 5, in which  
receiving notification includes receiving and interpreting a terminating frame.

Cancel claim 7.

8. (Currently amended) The device of claim 7 5, in which  
adjusting the contention mechanism includes setting a counter to count down  
commensurately with the scheduled ending time, and  
readjusting the contention mechanism includes advancing the counter to a smaller value.

9. (Original) The device of claim 8, in which  
the smaller value is zero.

10. (Previously presented) A device comprising:  
means for receiving contending requests for reserving respective non-contending wireless  
transmissions through a medium;  
means for scheduling an ending time of a time window during which subsequent  
contending requests are impermissible;  
means for communicating the scheduled ending time;  
means for monitoring the medium during the non-contending wireless transmissions;  
means for determining that one of the non-contending wireless transmissions through  
the monitored medium ended before the scheduled ending time; and  
means for communicating that transmitting additional subsequent contending requests for  
reserving other non-contending wireless transmissions are permissible even if made before the  
scheduled ending time.

11. (Previously presented) The device of claim 10, further comprising:  
means for detecting an idle time in the medium; and  
means for comparing the idle time to a preset minimum time;  
and in which the wireless transmissions are determined to have ended if the idle time is  
longer than the preset minimum time.

12. (Currently amended) The device of claim ~~11~~, further comprising:  
~~means for starting an idle counter if the medium is detected to be idle according to claim~~  
10 including:  
means for adjusting a contention mechanism to prevent contending for the medium  
before the scheduled ending time; and

means for readjusting the contention mechanism to enable contending for the medium before the scheduled ending time pursuant to the notification.

13. (Original) The device of claim 11, in which  
the preset minimum time equals a DIFS.

14. (Currently amended) A device comprising:

means for receiving data about a contention-free time window regarding a medium;

means for decoding from the data a scheduled ending time of the time window;

means for then receiving notification that contention will be permitted before the scheduled ending time for the contention-free window; and

means for transmitting contending requests for the medium before the scheduled ending time for reserving another contention-free window for sending data pursuant to the notification;

means for adjusting a contention mechanism to prevent contending for the medium before the scheduled ending time; and

means for readjusting the contention mechanism to enable contending for the medium before the scheduled ending time pursuant to the notification.

15. (Original) The device of claim 14, in which

the means for receiving notification includes receiving and interpreting a terminating frame.

Cancel claim 16.

17. (Currently amended) The device of claim ~~16~~ 14, in which

the means for adjusting the contention mechanism includes means for setting a counter to count down commensurately with the scheduled ending time, and

the means for readjusting the contention mechanism includes means for advancing the counter to a smaller value.

18. (Original) The device of claim 17, in which

the smaller value is zero.

19. (Previously presented) An article comprising: a storage medium, the storage medium having instructions stored thereon, in which when the instructions are executed by at least one device, they result in:

receiving contending requests for respective non-contending wireless transmissions through a medium;

scheduling an ending time of a non-contending time window during which subsequent contending requests are impermissible;

communicating the scheduled ending time;

monitoring the medium;

determining that one of the non-contending wireless transmissions through the monitored medium ended before the scheduled ending time; and

communicating that subsequent contending requests can be transmitted for reserving subsequent non-contending wireless transmissions even if made before the scheduled ending time.

20. (Previously presented) The article of claim 19, in which the instructions further result in:

detecting an idle time in the medium; and

comparing the idle time to a preset minimum time;

and in which the non-contending wireless transmissions are determined to have ended if the idle time is longer than the preset minimum time.

21. (Original) The article of claim 20, in which the instructions further result in:

starting an idle counter if the medium is detected to be idle.

22. (Currently amended) The article of claim 20, ~~in which~~

~~the preset minimum time equals a DIFS according to claim 19 including:~~

adjusting a contention mechanism to prevent contending for the medium before the scheduled ending time; and

pursuant to the notification readjusting the contention mechanism to enable transmitting contending requests for reserving the medium before the scheduled ending time .

23. (Currently amended) An article comprising: a storage medium, the storage medium having instructions stored thereon, in which when the instructions are executed by at least one device, they result in:

receiving data about a contention-free time window regarding a medium;  
decoding from the data a scheduled ending time of the time window;  
receiving notification that transmitting contention requests for reserving a next contention-free window will be permitted before the scheduled ending time; and  
transmitting contending requests for reserving the medium for transmitting data in the next contention-free window before the scheduled ending time pursuant to the notification;  
adjusting a contention mechanism to prevent contending for the medium before the scheduled ending time; and  
pursuant to the notification readjusting the contention mechanism to enable transmitting contending requests for reserving the medium before the scheduled ending time.

24. (Original) The article of claim 23, in which  
receiving notification includes receiving and interpreting a terminating frame.

Cancel claim 25.

26. (Currently amended) The article of claim ~~25~~ 23, in which  
adjusting the contention mechanism includes setting a counter to count down commensurately with the scheduled ending time, and  
readjusting the contention mechanism includes advancing the counter to a smaller value.

27. (Original) The article of claim 26, in which the smaller value is zero.

28. (Previously presented) A method comprising:  
receiving transmitted contending requests for respective non-contending wireless transmissions through a medium;  
scheduling an ending time of a time window during which transmitting subsequent contending requests are impermissible;  
communicating the scheduled ending time;

monitoring the medium;

determining that one of the wireless transmissions through the monitored medium ended before the scheduled ending time;

communicating a terminating frame that indicates transmitting subsequent contending requests are permissible for reserving a next non-contending wireless transmission even if made before the scheduled ending time; and

receiving transmitted contending requests before the scheduled ending time for requesting reservation of the next non-contending wireless transmission in response to communicating the terminating frame.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

detecting an idle time in the medium; and

comparing the idle time to a preset minimum time;

and in which the wireless transmission is determined to have ended if the idle time is longer than the preset minimum time.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, further comprising:

starting an idle counter if the medium is detected to be idle.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29, ~~in which~~

~~the preset minimum time equals a DIFS 28 including:~~

adjusting a contention mechanism to prevent transmitting the contention requests for the medium before the scheduled ending time; and

pursuant to the notification readjusting the contention mechanism to enable transmitting the contention requests for the medium before the scheduled ending time.

32. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving data about a contention-free time window for transporting information over a medium;

decoding from the data a scheduled ending time of the time window;

receiving notification that transmitting a contention request will be permitted before the scheduled ending time of the contention-free window; ~~and~~

transmitting the contention request for requesting transporting information contention-free over the medium before the scheduled ending time pursuant to the notification;

adjusting a contention mechanism to prevent transmitting the contention requests for the medium before the scheduled ending time; and

pursuant to the notification readjusting the contention mechanism to enable transmitting the contention requests for the medium before the scheduled ending time.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, in which  
receiving notification includes receiving and interpreting a terminating frame.

Cancel claim 34.

35. (Currently amended) The method of claim 34 32, in which  
adjusting the contention mechanism includes setting a counter to count down  
commensurately with the scheduled ending time, and  
readjusting the contention mechanism includes advancing the counter to a smaller value.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, in which  
the smaller value is zero.